

Appl. No. 09/524,326
Resp. dated Jan. 23, 2006
R esp. to Office action of Nov. 21, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant still believes that pending claims 1-20 recite patentable subject matter in view of at least the arguments and rebuttal evidence presented in the Responses of March 10, 2005 and September 14, 2005. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended the application to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the rejected subject matter without prejudice in a continuing application.

Since the Examiner indicated that claim 3 recites allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements recited in claim 3 and in an intervening claim (i.e., claim 2). Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner indicated that claim 7 recites allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended claim 7 to include the elements recited in independent claim 1. Amended independent claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Since the Examiner indicated that claim 7 recites allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claims 11 and 14 to include the elements recited in claim 7. It is believed that the amendment places amended independent claims 11 and 14 in condition for allowance.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1 and 4-20 are in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

FROM McANDREWS, HELD, & MALLOY

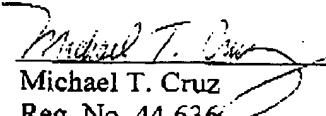
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: January 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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